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Alfalfa Farming in America. By Joseph E. Wing. 528 pp. Ills., index. Sanders Publishing Co., Chicago, 1912. \$2. 8 x 5½.

One would hardly believe at first thought that 522 pages of rather close print could be devoted to the subject of alfalfa. By introducing in great detail the history of alfalfa, the methods of planting, developing and harvesting, the variety of uses and the occurrence of the product on different parts of the earth's surface, this considerable volume has been compiled.

The book seemingly is intended to be read as a story. It is also intended to excite sufficient interest to cause the reader to enter upon the alfalfa growing industry at once. It will undoubtedly serve well as a reference book for those who may seek special information concerning "seeding and cutting," "alfalfa diseases," "alfalfa for the silo," and like details. A rather complete index adds to its value.

EUGENE VAN CLEEF.

Principles of American Forestry. By Samuel B. Green. xiii and 334 pp. Ills., index. John Wiley & Sons, New York, 1911. \$1.50. 7½ x 5½.

This book meets in a very attractive way the needs of elementary students and the general reader. The contents cover an adequate statement of the tree, tree growth, the forest, forest influences, tree planting on prairies, propagation, regeneration, protection and mensuration of forests, nursery practice, rate of increase in timber trees, uses and durability of woods, forest economics and a very valuable and suggestive chapter on forest problems dealing with many special, typical cases.

To the geographer all is interesting, but the fourth chapter is most germane. It contains little that is new, but the grouping of data is excellent and the statement lucid. Forests prevent evaporation, retard snow melting, and delay surface distribution of water, hence are conducive to perennial streams, high water-table, and perpetual and copious springs; they are condensers of dew, and gatherers of frost and ice. They apparently do not increase rainfall but greatly enhance its effectiveness. On the treelessness of the prairies chief weight is given to scanty rainfall poorly distributed through the year, coupled with great evaporation. Burning by Indians to aid grass growth is a contributing cause. Tables of silvicultural data, and uses of important American trees, glossary and bibliography follow the text.

G. D. HUBBARD.

Our Vanishing Wild Life, Its Extermination and Preservation. By William T. Hornaday. xv and 411 pp. Maps, ill., index. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1913. \$1.50. 8½ x 6.

A foreword by Professor H. F. Osborn characterizes this work as an "alarm call" to battle against the careless and selfish destruction of many forms of wild life. The writer in his preface champions the rights of 97 per cent of the people as against the 3 per cent whose main aim is to kill. Long closed seasons or a gameless continent—such is the alternative set before us as an incentive to immediate action.

Preceding the title page, we find in parallel columns a startling lesson. On the left is a paragraph quoted from the report of a committee of the Ohio legislature in 1857, soberly affirming that the passenger pigeon needed no protection. On the right is a picture showing on its perch the last living passenger pigeon, now twenty years old, in the Cincinnati Zoological Garden. An early chapter gives a list of a dozen or more species of North American birds which are now extinct. A further list is given of twenty-three species, all of which are now threatened with extinction.

Among the large mammals completely exterminated are the Arizona elk, the quagga, the blaubok, which is an African antelope, and Burchell's zebra of Africa. Almost extinct are the Tasmanian wolf, West Indian seal, California elephant seal and California grizzly bear. "The Regular Army of Destruction," "Guerillas of Destruction" and "Unseen Foes of Wild Life" are somewhat sensational but effective chapter heads which bind attention to astonishing disclosures. Striking revelations are made of the slaughter of song birds by Italians, the destruction of song birds in the South by negroes and poor whites, and extermination for women's hats. A list of over sixty species is given of birds thus undergoing extermination for London and other European markets.

The forces of defense are fully described, with an ample exposition of the defects of present game laws and of the protective restrictions that are needed. The book is written with a keenly stimulating vigor and is well fitted to arouse indignation, cultivate conviction and stir to endeavor. It is at once a cyclopedia of fact and a summons to action.

A. P. BRIGHAM.

The National Geographic Society Researches in Alaska. By Lawrence Martin. *National Geographic Magazine*, Vol. 22, 1911, No. 6, pp. 537-561. Maps, ill.

This paper records the results of four months' study of Alaskan glaciers by Professor Martin in 1910, continuing studies by Tarr and Martin in 1909. The field of observation was Prince William Sound and Yakutat Bay. The opportunity was of special importance owing to the fresh action of some glaciers due to avalanche snows contributed to the glaciers through a series of earthquake shocks in 1899. In the case of several Yakutat Bay glaciers the advance is known to have begun several years after the agitation. It also appears that the longer glaciers required more time to exhibit the forward movement.

Much study was given to the Childs Glacier, which flows through a lateral valley to the banks of the Copper River. This glacier began its unusual advance in the winter of 1909-1910, and in the summer following the front margin was advancing from two to eight feet each day. Undercutting by the river and "sloughing" caused strong erosion of the opposite bank. By Oct. 5 the total advance of front was about a third of a mile. Along parts of the margin impressive results were seen from day to day, in plowing up the earth and the overturning of trees which the day before were standing at the edge of the glacier. The movement threatened the safety of the great railroad bridge, costing \$1,400,000. The glaciers of the Copper River and Prince William Sound are not in the zone of avalanching to which Yakutat Bay belongs and the cause of advance is left in doubt. Several glaciers were found to be receding.

A. P. BRIGHAM.

SOUTH AMERICA

Viteos, the Last Inca Capital. By Hiram Bingham. 64 pp. Ills. Reprint, *Proc. Amer. Antiquar. Soc.*, April, 1912. Worcester, Mass. 9½ x 6.

There is much to be said in favor of the piecemeal presentation of the results of Professor Bingham's explorations into the ancient civil geography of Peru. He sacrifices the bulk of the ponderable masterpiece which might impress the casual reader, but to those who watch his sane and cautious, yet always brilliant, progress through the tangle of the disputes which have clouded Inca chronology and the Peruvian geography in which it found its development, each of these brochures stands as a masterpiece of research in the field and of interpretation upon the terrain of the problems of orientation which in the study have evaded all attempts at solution. The expedition recorded in this monograph was addressed to the settlement of the site of the last Inca capital, that mountain fastness in which the young Manco Inca found a refuge from Pizarro. In this work Professor Bingham presents cogent reasons for identifying the Inca's Viteos with the site now known as Rosaspata and for establishing his temple of the sun, Yurak Rumi, upon the ruins which he traced at Nusta España. The author is the third in brilliant succession to set the name of Hiram Bingham in the roll of those who have given us knowledge of obscure folk; to his father we owe our best information upon Ni Makin and Ni Peru of the Gilbert Archipelago, and to his grandfather is due the history of the introduction of civilization to the Hawaiian Islands.

WILLIAM CHURCHILL.

AFRICA

The African Rubber Industry and *Funtumia elastica* ("Kiekxia"). By Cuthbert Christy. xvi and 252 pp. Map, ill., index. John Bale, Sons & Dainelsson, Ltd., London, 1911. 12s 6d. 9 x 6.

A monograph on the African rubber tree, *Funtumia elastica*, and also a practical treatise. In the preface the author says he is fully conscious of his literary failings; but the reader will say the book is well written. The style is fluent and the descriptions are precise and clear. The book might have been improved,